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Identical letters dated 22 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 October 2000 from Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice-President and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, in which he calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 9 to 15 October 2000 they carried out 198 sorties, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey.

The Vice-President and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs urges intervention with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 198 sorties in the period from 9 to 15 October 2000, 90 of them from Saudi Arabia, 78 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 30 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1005 hours on 9 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 10 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Irbil, Zakho, Baibo and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 168 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0800 hours on 9 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Rifa'i, Qurnah, Shinafiyah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1635 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0905 hours on 10 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 52 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 26 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Hayy, Afak, Samawah, Amarah, Ukhaydir, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Salman and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1610 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1115 hours on 12 October 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Jalibah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Busayyah, Artawi, Shatrah, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Mashkhab, Nukhayb and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1555 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1325 hours on 13 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Jalibah, Najaf, Hayy, Qal'at Salih and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1400 hours on 14 October 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1520 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges you to perform your assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening

with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Taha Yasin **Ramadan**
Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs